

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**CORRECTED
FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

SB 1691 – HB 1528

March 18, 2014

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Creates the Three Stars of Tennessee Award for peace officers, firefighters, and medical first responders killed or injured in the line of duty. Creates three separate advisory committees to advise the Governor on the issuance, design, recipient selection, and presentation of such awards. Requires each committee to meet annually and authorizes committee members to be reimbursed for attendance at such meetings. Each committee will be composed of three members. Requires the Governor, or the Governor's designee, to present the Awards on, or as near as possible to, September 11 of each year.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$21,500

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (012080): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Creates the Three Stars of Tennessee Award for peace officers, firefighters, and medical first responders killed or suffered a career ending injury in the line of duty. Specifies the award shall consist of a plaque and a medal. Requires the Governor, or the Governor's designee, to present the Awards on, or as near as possible to, September 11 of each year. Requires the Awards to be selected and administered by the Homeland Security Council created by Executive Order No. 8 of 2003, within the Department of Safety. Authorizes any person who has personal knowledge of a peace officer, firefighter, or medical first responder who was killed or suffered a career ending injury to submit such information in writing to the Council.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

On February 10, 2014, a fiscal memorandum was issued estimating the fiscal impact as follows:

Increase State Expenditures - \$11,300

After receiving additional information and further review, the fiscal impact is:

(CORRECTED)

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,900

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

SB 1691 – HB 1528 (CORRECTED)

- According to the Department of Commerce and Insurance, the Fire Prevention Division, data reported from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012, reflects a yearly average of three firefighters who were severely injured or had life threatening injuries and two firefighters who were killed in the line of duty. The same data reflects a yearly average of 47 firefighters who had lost-time injuries. The current budgets of the Peace Officer Standards Commission and the Fire Prevention Division include death benefits amounts for four law enforcement officers and for two firefighters.
- According to the data provided by the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, between 2007 and 2012, there have been five public safety line-of-duty deaths. This data does not include the following counties: Davidson, Shelby, Knox, Dyer, Hancock, Lake, Meigs, and Madison.
- According to data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, there were six law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty from 2008 to 2012 – an average of 1.20 per year.
- According to data provided by local governments, there have been six deaths in sheriff departments during the past five years, two firefighters, and three police officers – an average of 2.20 per year.
- According to the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DOSHS), there has been four to five public safety officials killed in the line of duty each year. DOSHS estimates another four to five public safety officials that would have received a career ending injury.
- Estimate assumes there will be an average of 10 awards for fire fighters, 10 awards for peace officers, and 10 awards for medical first responders who are killed or suffered a career ending injury in the line of duty each year.
- According to DOSHS, the estimated cost of each award which consists of a medal and plaque would range between \$50 and \$75. Using the mid-range, each award could cost \$62.50. The recurring expenditure for awards is \$1,875 (\$62.50 x 30 awards).
- DOSHS will incorporate this award program into their annual 911 award program and the increase in expenditures can be handled within existing resources without an additional appropriation.
- Any increase in expenditures for the Homeland Security Council to administer the program will not be significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/lsc